

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 08536 101818Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----059287 101821Z /40

O R 101758Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8475
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T PARIS 08536

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SO, US, ET, PBOR
SUBJECT: HORN OF AFRICA: FRENCH VIEWS ON SOMALI
WITHDRAWAL

REFS: A. STATE 61431. B. STATE 61340.

1. AMBASSADOR CONVEYED REF A POINTS TO QUAI SECRETARY
GENERAL SOUTOU MORNING OF MARCH 10 AND GAVE SOUTOU TEXT
OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S MARCH 9 PRESS CONFERENCE STATE-
MENT (REF B).

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 08536 101818Z

2. SOUTOU SAID GOF WOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT LATER IN
THE DAY EXPRESSING SATISFACTION WITH SOMALI DECISION
TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM OGADEN. SOUTOU THEN SAID
HE HAD BEEN MOST INTERESTED TO HEAR AMERICAN REPORTS
OF MENGISTU'S STATEMENT THAT ETHIOPIA WISHED TO REMAIN
NON-ALIGNED. CERTAINLY, SOUTOU SAID, IT WAS IN
WESTERN INTEREST FOR ETHIOPIA TO BE NON-ALIGNED, BUT

HE DOUBTED THAT THIS WAS POSSIBLE. THE MORE VIOLENT AND REPRESSIVE MENGISTU'S DICTATORSHIP BECAME, THE MORE HE WOULD BECOME DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIETS TO MAINTAIN HIS REGIME. SOUTOU THOUGHT IT WAS EVEN POSSIBLE THAT MENGISTU WAS BEING DELIBERATELY MISLEADING WHEN HE CLAIMED HE WANTED TO REMAIN NON-ALIGNED.

3. SOUTOU SAID THE WEST'S "NUMBER ONE OBJECTIVE" IN THE PRESENT SITUATION SHOULD BE TO SAVE SOMALIS AND TO KEEP SIAD BARRE IN PLACE AS ITS LEADER. HE NOTED THAT THE AFRICANS WERE VERY STRONG ON RESPECT FOR EXISTING FRONTIERS; IF THE SOMALIS FOLLOW THIS RULE IT WILL BE POLITICALLY VERY DIFFICULT FOR ETHIOPIA TO VIOLATE SOMALIAN FRONTIERS. SOUTOU BELIEVED IT HAD BEEN WISE TO REFUSE TO ASSIST THE SOMALIS WHILE THEY WERE OCCUPYING THE OGADEN.

4. TEXT OF GOF DECLARATION, AS ISSUED BY QUAI SPOKESMAN, FOLLOWS:

"THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS NOTED WITH GREAT INTEREST THE DECLARATION BY WHICH THE SOMALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO PROCEED TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF ITS COMBAT TROOPS IN OGADEN IN ORDER TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. THIS DECISION CONFORMS WITH THE POINT OF VIEW CONSTANTLY DEFENDED BY FRANCE AND WHICH HAS BEEN THE OBJECT, DURING RECENT

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 08536 101818Z

MONTHS, OF MANY COMMUNICATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH THE MOGADISCIO GOVERNMENT. THE EFFECTIVE WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALIAN TROOPS OPENS THE WAY FOR A SEARCH, BY NEGOTIATION, FOR AN EQUITABLE AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION, AND SHOULD LEAD TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FOREIGN TROOPS WHICH HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFLICT."

5. IN FURTHER COMMENTS TO THE PRESS, THE QUAI SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT IT WAS "PERHAPS REGRETTABLE" THAT SIAD BARRE "SOMEWHAT DELAYED" TAKING A DECISION WHICH NOW RISKS APPEARING TO RESULT FROM THE EVOLUTION OF THE MILITARY SITUATION. SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT IN ANY EVENT FRENCH DO NOT BELIEVE ETHIOPIAN FORCES WILL VIOLATE SOMALIAN FRONTIER, SINCE ADDIS ABABA HAS GIVEN ASSURANCES ON THIS SCORE AND ETHIOPIA "WOULD HAVE NO INTEREST" IN ENTERING SOMALIA.

6. WE ARE RECEIVING QUESTIONS FROM FRENCH AS TO WHETHER WE CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE TO GET THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS OUT OF ETHIOPIA BEFORE THE ETHIOPIANS HAVE ALSO SETTLED THEIR ERITREAN PROBLEMS. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT TO USE IN REPLYING TO FRENCH.

HARTMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS08536
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780108-0736
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780382/aaaacrpi.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f9a0acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 61431
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3372896
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HORN OF AFRICA: FRENCH VIEWS ON SOMALI WITHDRAWAL
TAGS: PBOR, SO, US, ET, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f9a0acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014